(f) The Government is making efforts to finalise the agreement.

Postal Charges

1149. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to hike the postal charges for commercial use;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the traders and entrepreneurs may be affected due to hike in postal charges, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Revision of postal rates is considered as a part of the annual budgetary exercise. While considering such revision all relevant factors are kept in view.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of 'a' above.

12.0½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mineral Development Corporation and Ministry of Steel for 1996-97 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) -

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-657/96]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-658/96]

(3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-659/96]

Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 1996

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Beni Prasad Varma, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 255 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1996 under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-660/96]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha -

> "In accordance with the provision of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 1996."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996, as passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1996.

12.01½ hrs.

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY BILL, 1996

As Passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1996.

12.01¾ hrs.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES - SUMMARY OF WORK

[English]

SECRETARY - GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Parliamentary Committee (other

than Financial and Departmentally related Standing Committees) Summary of Work' (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the period from 1 June, 1995 to 10 May, 1996.

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

First and Second Reports

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto:

(1) First Report on the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) Reservation for the Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in South Eastern Railway.

(2) Second Report on the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation) Employment and financial assistance provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under Jawahar Rojgar Yojna.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Issue of Closure of Industries in Delhi as a Result of Directions by the Supreme Court

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): Sir, in the wake of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the inter-locutory Application No. 22 in Writ Petition (C) No. 4677 of 1985, 168 industries listed as hazardous/noxious/heavy/large industries are to be closed down on the mid-night of 30th November, 1996. Subsequently by another order, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed a further 513 units to be closed with effect from 31st January, 1997. In the order, dated 8th July, 1996, the National Capital Region Planning Board has been directed to render all assistance to the industries for the purpose of relocation outside Delhi. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also given certain directions regarding the amount of compensation to be paid to the affected workmen. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also given directions that the workmen employed in the industries which fail to relocate and the workmen who are not willing to shift alongwith the re-located industries shall be deemed to have been retrenched with effect from 30th November, 1996 provided they have been in continuous service for not less than one year in the industries concerned before the said date. Besides the compensation payable under Section 25-F(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act, such workmen will also be given one year's wages as additional compensation.

According to the information received from the Government of NCT of Delhi, the industries have so far not shown any inclination for re-location.

The trade unions have also expressed apprehension that the industries are more interested in selling part of the land and utilise the money so received for purposes other than for relocation. The unions have therefore, demanded that in the overall interest of the workers, the industries should be compelled to relocate and that in case of workmen who do not want to shift for one or the other reason, amount of compensation should be more than what has been ordered to be given in the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court.

This is a matter of grave concern as besides creating unemployment for about thirty thousand workers, this may lead to social tensions and a law and order situation. In the circumstances, we are exploring the possibility of advising the NCT of Delhi to approach the hon. Supreme Court to review their order in such a manner that shifting and relocation becomes an obligation rather than an option on the part of the industries concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make a noise. It is a very important statement.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: They may also request the hon. Supreme Court to consider allowing a higher compensation for such workers who are not in a position to shift to other places because of one or other reasons. While the Government is fully conscious of the need for pollution-free environment and planned development and fully respects the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court in the matter of closure of such industries, the hon. Court could also be requested to allow some more time for closure and relocation of the industries in question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): There should be a discussion on this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We would like to seek clarifications.. *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): It can be decided in the BAC.